BC STATS
Province of British Columbia
Ministry of Finance and Corporate Relations

Infoline

Issue: **97-14** **4** Pages
April 4, 1997

You will find the last 5 issues on our website:
http://www.bcstats.gov.bc.ca

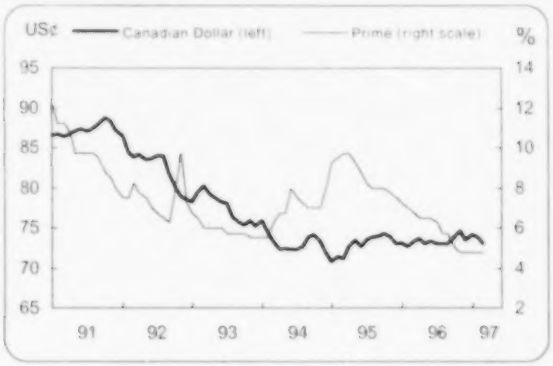
Report

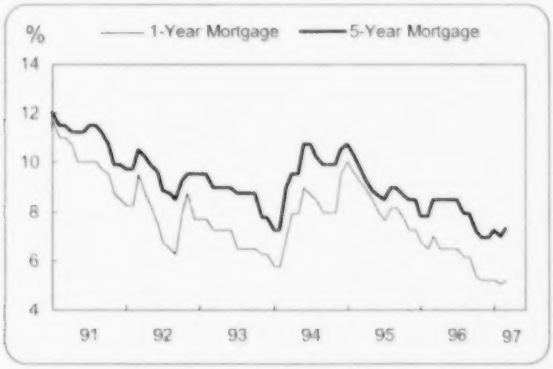
Earnings of Men and Women

BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/97	% change on year ago
BC	3,902.5	2.2
Canada	30,135.9	1.1
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT		% change
(BC - at market prices - $ millions)	1995	on year ago
Current Dollars	103,273	4.6
Constant (1986) Dollars	74,107	1.9
TRADE ($ millions)		
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) Jan	2,839	3.8
Merchandise Exports (raw) Jan	2,091	10.5
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) Jan	2,815	9.7
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change
(all items - 1986=100)	Feb '97	on year ago
BC	139.4	0.9
Canada	137.3	2.2
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change
(seasonally adjusted)	Mar '97	on year ago
Labour Force - BC	1,985	1.4
Employed - BC	1,819	1.5
Unemployed - BC	167	0.4
		Mar '96
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	8.4	8.5
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	9.3	9.4
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Apr 2/97	Apr 3/96
Prime Business Rate	4.75	6.75
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	5.55	7.00
- 5 year	7.65	8.50
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Apr 2/97	Apr 3/96
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.3838	1.3569
US $ *(reciprocal of above rate)*	0.7226	0.7370
AVERAGE WEEKLY EARNINGS		% change
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Jan '97	on year ago
BC	616.83	3.9
Canada	594.44	4.0

SOURCES:
Gross Domestic Product: Statistics Canada, revised by BC STATS
Population, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Earnings: Statistics Canada
Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Review





Series charted are monthly, to March 1997 only.

Released this week by BC STATS

- Migration Highlights, Fourth Quarter 1996
- Labour Force Statistics, March 1997
- Tourism Room Revenue, November 1996

Next week

- Exports (BC Origin), January 1997
- Immigration Highlights, 1996 Annual

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Infoline Report:

April 4, 1997

Earnings of Men and Women

Reprinted from the December 1996 issue of *Earnings and Employment Trends*. An annual subscription is $60 + GST.

In 1995, the average earnings of full-time/full-year workers in British Columbia increased by 2.5 per cent over 1994 to $38,624.

Average earnings of women working full-time/full-year increased by 6.2 per cent in 1995 to $31,647 compared to a 0.9 increase in the earnings of men ($43,234).

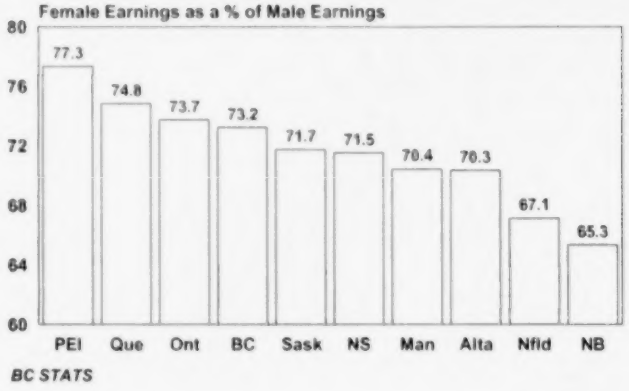
Although women's earnings continue to gain ground, a much higher percentage of women (36.4 per cent) than men (22.7 per cent), earn less than $25,000. On the opposite end of the wage scale, only 12.5 per cent of women earn more then $50,000 compared to 32.7 per cent of men.

After three years of *increases* in the wage gap between women and men in B.C., women's earnings relative to men rose 3.7 percentage points to 73.2 per cent in 1995, the highest ratio every recorded in British Columbia.

Canada also recorded a large gain in women's earnings relative to men, increasing from 69.8 per cent in 1994 to 73.1 per cent in 1995. Women's earnings as a per cent of men's varies from a high of 77.3 per cent in Prince Edward Island to a low of 65.3 per cent in New Brunswick.

Earnings of Full-Year/Full-Time Workers in British Columbia

Provincial Comparisons of Women's Earnings Relative to Men - 1995



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highlights

April 4, 1997
Issue: 97-14

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

Population

- **BC's population grew 2.2% during the twelve-month period ending January 1, 1997, and currently stands at 3,902,500**. The province's population growth slowed during 1996, and the 2.2% increase recorded in each of the last two quarters was the lowest since the late 1980s. However, despite the moderation in BC's population growth last year, it continued to be more than double the national average (1.1%) and considerably higher than in any other province. Alberta (1.5%) and Ontario (1.3%) also recorded above-average population growth in 1996. Newfoundland (-1.3%) was again the only province where the population declined last year.

  Declining net migration from other provinces was a major factor in the moderation of BC's population growth last year. During 1996, BC gained 21,150 residents as a result of net migration from the rest of Canada, 12.0% less than in the previous year. Offsetting the decline in interprovincial migration was a 15.9% increase in net international migration, and a modest (0.7%) rise in the rate of natural increase. *Source: BC STATS*

- **Net international and interprovincial migration to BC are expected to increase the province's population by 59,100 persons in 1997.** Both international and interprovincial migration are forecast to be down 5–10% from their 1996 levels. The 1997 forecast of net international migration to British Columbia is 40,100 persons, compared to 42,735 in 1996. Net interprovincial migration to the province is expected to decrease to 19,000 persons. *Source: BC STATS*

- **During the fourth quarter of 1996, BC gained 3,798 residents as a result of net migration from other provinces.** This was 35.6% less than in the same quarter of 1995. There were small net outflows of British Columbians to both Alberta (-294) and Saskatchewan (-218), and a net migration gain from Ontario (+2,752). Ontario accounted for almost three-quarters of the total net gain, but net migration to BC was down 20% from the fourth quarter of 1995. Quebec (+546) was the second most important Canadian source of migrants to BC in the last three months of 1996. *Source: BC STATS*

Labour Force

- **British Columbia's unemployment rate fell 0.2 percentage points in March, to 8.4% (seasonally adjusted), despite a decline in the number jobs in the province.** Employment in BC was down 9,000 to 1.819 million. However, 15,000 people left the labour force last month and as a result, the unemployment rate improved.

  Nationally, the unemployment rate was down 0.4 percentage points, to 9.3% in March. The improvement in the Canadian unemployment rate was largely due to employment growth: 61,000 new jobs were created in March. The labour force increased only moderately (1,700), suggesting that most of the new jobs were filled by people who had been unemployed. Unemployment rates were down in most parts of the country, with the largest decreases occurring in Newfoundland (-1.3 points, to 18.7%), Nova Scotia (-0.7 points, to 12.8%), Quebec (-0.7 points, to 11.2%) and Alberta (-0.6 points, to 6.2%). Alberta and Saskatchewan (both at 6.2%) had the lowest unemployment rates in the country. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Vancouver's unemployment rate increased from 8.1% (3-month moving average, unadjusted) in February to 8.5% last month.** The unemployment rate in Victoria increased from 7.6% to 8.4%. Among regions, the unemploy-

For data originating from Statistics Canada: data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the publication name or catalogue number.

Did you know...?
The average Canadian male spends 4 hours a day either driving his car or working to pay for it.

ment rate ranged from 6.5% in Northeast BC to 12.2% in the Kootenay region. Thompson-Okanagan (10.9%) had the province's second-highest unemployment rate. *Source: Statistics Canada*

Business and Economics

- **Wages and salaries in British Columbia increased 0.3% (seasonally adjusted) between December and January.** BC and Ontario (+0.9%) were the only provinces where wages increased at the beginning of the year. Wages and salaries were down 6.1% in PEI, and in other provinces, the decline in the wage bill ranged from 0.2% in Quebec to 2.0% in Newfoundland. Nationally, wages and salaries rose 0.1%, reflecting the strength in BC and Ontario. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Department store sales in British Columbia (including Yukon and NWT) increased 4.5% during the twelve-month period ending in February.** The increase was below the national average (5.2%) and lower than in most other regions of Canada. Saskatchewan (+8.1%) recorded the strongest growth in department store sales. In other parts of Canada, the year-over-year change ranged from -1.3% in New Brunswick to 7.0% in Ontario. *Source: Statistics Canada*

Housing

- **The number of existing homes sold by the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) in British Columbia declined 9.6% (seasonally adjusted) between January and February, with 6,283 homes in the province changing hands.** Residential MLS sales were down in all provinces except PEI (+111.1%) and New Brunswick (+6.0%). Nationally, MLS sales fell 9.0%, with 30,331 homes sold in February. However, sales were well above the February 1996 level. *Source: The Canadian Real Estate Association*

Domestic Travel

- **Canadians made 31.2 million trips inside Canada during the first three months of 1996, down 9.2% from 34.4 million trips during the same period of 1994.** The majority of trips (28.2 million) were made by automobile. Air travel was ranked second (1.5 million), followed by bus (1.1 million), rail (251,000) and other forms of transportation (192,000). Travel by all modes of transportation was down from the first quarter of 1994, with the exception of air travel, which increased 19.1%. A decline in the cost of air fares (the average domestic air fare in the first three months of 1994 was $194, compared to $182 in the first quarter of 1996) may have contributed to the increase in air travel. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Business travellers accounted for just under two-thirds of the domestic air travel market in the first three months of last year.** Twenty-one percent of travellers were going to visit friends and relatives, and 10% were on pleasure trips. *Source: Statistics Canada*

- **Despite the overall decline in travel, domestic travel expenditures were up 9.5%, to $3.7 billion, between the first quarter of 1994 and the same period last year.** The increase was largely due to the rise in the number of air travellers, who spent an average of $977 per trip (80 kilometres or more) in 1996, compared to only $76 per trip for travellers using other types of transportation. *Source: Statistics Canada*

Social Trends

- **How much food do Canadians consume in a year?** In 1995, the average Canadian consumed 128 kilograms (kg) of fruit; 172 kg of vegetables; 31 kg of poultry; 23 kg of beef; 21 kg of pork; 2 kg of mutton, lamb and veal; 8 kg of fish; 14 dozen eggs; 8 kg of butter and margarine; 19 kg of other oils and fats; 11 kg of cheese; 89 litres of milk; 11 litres of ice cream; 3 litres of yogurt; 91 litres of soft drinks; 76 litres of alcoholic beverages; 77 kg of cereals; 39 kg of sugar; 8 kg of legumes and nuts; 4 kg of coffee; and 1 kg of tea. To put it another way, the average Canadian eats twice his or her weight in fruit alone each year. *Source: SC, Catalogue 32-229-XPB and 32-230-XPB*

Oops!

- **We goofed!** Last week's edition of highlights should have been number 97-13, not number 97-14. This week's edition of highlights has the correct number.

highlights, Issue 97-14
April 4, 1997

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